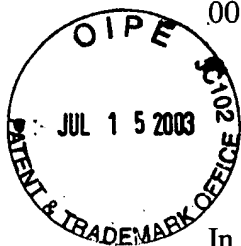


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

NAOTO ABE ET AL.

Application No.: 09/726,020

Filed: November 30, 2000

For: ELECTRON SOURCE APPARATUS
AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS

Examiner: W. Lee

Group Art Unit: 2821

July 9, 2003

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to continued prosecution on the merits, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claim amendments are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2. The remarks begin at page 8.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 9, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

FRANK A. DeLUCIA Reg. No. 42,476

(Name of Attorney for Applicants)

Signature

July 9, 2003

Date of Signature

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